



Urgent Victory edition
March 31, 2002

V Corps soldiers jump main CP

story by Sgt. Brent Hunt
V Corps Public Affairs Office

More than 9,000 soldiers and airmen have descended upon the Grafenwoehr Training Area here for Urgent Victory 2002, but when the word came for the corps headquarters to move out, fewer than 100 of them had the difficult job of "jumping" the corps' massive main command post.

"Jumping the CP" is key to keeping the corps mobile and rapid on the battlefield. As a wartime or training scenario changes, the command post has to move with it—quickly—without any loss in the corps' fighting ability or command and control. Even though Urgent Victory's battle scenario is based on a simulated electronic war that matches "Redland" against "Greenland," everything has to move as quickly and efficiently as it would on a real battlefield.

It's a big job in little time. For Urgent Victory, the "jump" means taking down the main command post completely and packing everything it contains—more than 20 camouflage-netted tents of varying sizes, all the tables, chairs, telephones, flooring, heaters, lights and other supplies and—on to pallets for air deployment.

As the process begins, the staff needs to "keep up the fight" and it shifts to a Tactical Operations Center. The TAC is a small command post that remains in place and allows the main command post to move.

For Urgent Victory, every vehicle is then convoyed to a simulated jump point two hours away. The personnel and equipment are then brought back to the site to the new main CP in its new location. Once the structure is in place, the staff takes their positions there, and the "jump" is complete.

"This is by far the biggest jump I have ever been involved with," said Air Force Staff



photo by Sgt. Brent Hunt
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A V Corps soldier gets ready to deploy a DRASH (Deployable Rapid Assembly Shelter) tent during the V Corps command post "jump." The main CP has now taken command and control of the simulated battle from the tactical operations center.

Sgt. Steven Dumont, a forward air controller from the 4th Air Support Operations Squadron in Mannheim, Germany.

"This is great. We have two services working together to achieve the same objective," added Dumont.

Operation Urgent Victory: Vegas Style



Dancers entertain troops in field

story and photos by
Spec. Amy Abbott
V Corps Public Affairs Office

What do camouflage nets, tactical operations centers, Meals, Ready to Eat and Las Vegas dancers have in common?

They've all been a part of V Corps Warfighter training.

Monday evening, on behalf of Armed Forces Entertainment,

the show Passport to Las Vegas was brought to the V Corps soldiers training here in Grafenwoehr.

That evening the camouflage-clad soldiers ventured in to the fest tent to enjoy an evening of fun and relaxation; a nice contrast to the long hours and heavy duties they've been pulling in preparation for exercise Urgent Victory.

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"This was a great opportunity to encourage team cohesiveness within V Corps," said Capt. Saul Gonzalez, company commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, V Corps, Heidelberg, Germany. "The show will give the soldiers a positive light in which to start their training."

The show started off with the "Star Spangled Banner," performed by V Corps own Pfc. Tashanna Luz and Spc. Naadira Bunbury, both of Special Troops Battalion.

"I think this show surpasses all the shows I've seen since I've been in Germany," said an enthusiastic Spc. Zachery Wade, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 22nd Signal Brigade. "Now we're actually going to have something to go to work and talk

about."

After the show, the Passport cast proved they were as good ambassadors as they are song-and-dance specialists, staying on to sign autographs and have their pictures taken again and again by cheerful soldiers.

But it wasn't just the soldiers who left with smiling faces and stars in their eyes.

"This was an experience I'll never forget," said Lynann Escatel, singer and dancer with Passport to Vegas. "It was magical and unbelievable. The audience was ruckus and wild, which is just what we like it. They were a dream."

"I love to see my cast give and receive and this was the best reception of all of our tour thus far," said Nadine Szweda, company manager. "It was such an overwhelming and touching reception from the boys. I'm actually speechless."

Earlier that day the shows performers and managers had been escorted all over the training area to get a much appreciated and closer look at military life. But for the troops, the highlight of the day was the performance, with many commenting that the Passport show was definitely a new and most welcome twist to this visit to Graf.

"Of all the performers I've seen in (military sponsored) shows in the past, these performers have been the most patriotic and enthusiastic entertainers ever," said 1st Lt. Richard Michalski, executive officer, Delta Battery, 202nd Air Defense Artillery, Chicago National Guard. "These type of events not only increase morale, but camaraderie as well. My troops definitely have smiles on their faces!"

THE SOLDIERS OF URGENT VICTORY



photo by Sgt. Brent Hunt
V Corps Public Affairs Office

Staff Sgt. Erik Kountz, command and control NCO, G3 operations, V Corps, and a native of Tehachapi, Calif., on his role at Urgent Victory 2002: "I operate the command and control personal computer. The computer shoots an image to a satellite and I get instant feedback of where friendly or foe units are. It gives the CG key decision making options relative to the Warfighter."

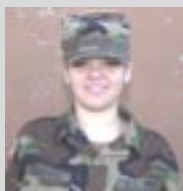
Warfighter of the Day



photo by Sgt. Brent Hunt
V Corps Public Affairs Office

Sgt. Jonathan Hernandez, light wheeled vehicle mechanic, BMO, V Corps, fixes an oil pressure gauge on a HMMWV.

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The Vanguard/Urgent Victory edition is published for V Corps soldiers like:

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